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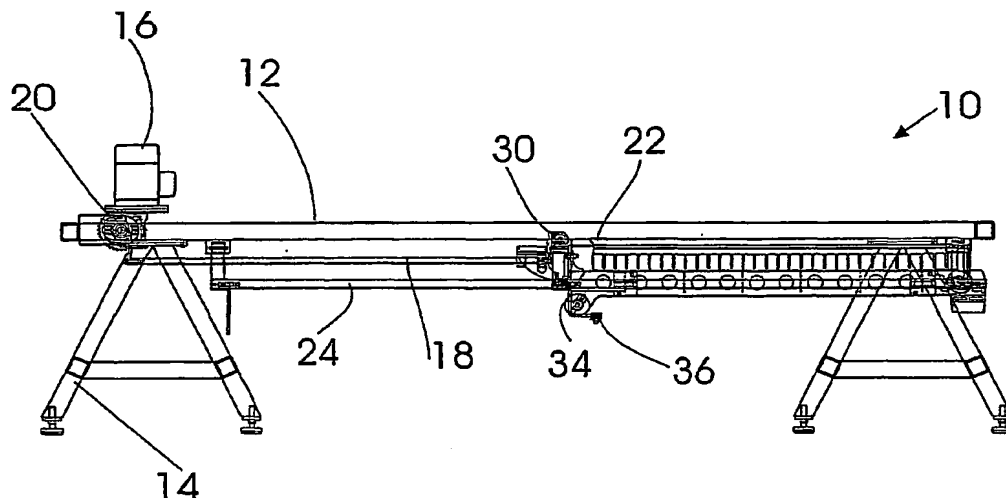
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(54) Title: A METHOD AND AN APPARATUS FOR APPLYING AND EVENLY DISTRIBUTING A QUANTITY OF PARTICULATE MATERIAL



(57) Abstract: A method of applying and evenly distributing a quantity of particulate material such as ground or dried coffee within a shallow tray (22), comprises the steps of providing the quantity, delivering the quantity within the tray, the tray having a plurality of pins (40) to be positioned within the particulate material while vibrating the tray, vibrating the tray horizontally at a low vibrational frequency and for a specific period of time for causing the particulate material to be evenly distributed within the tray, transferring the quantity from the tray to a further processing station such as a freezing station or a drying station. The quantity is provided from an overhead distributor such as an overhead openable hopper. The pins (40) may be stationary or movable relative to the vibrating tray (22).

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